



PRESS RELEASE
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**FT. MYERS MAN INDICTED FOR DISRUPTING AND
ENDANGERING THE SAFETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

Ft. Myers, FL - U.S. Attorney Paul I. Perez announced today the return of an indictment charging Jack Joseph Brems, age 34, with one count of using a device to disrupt the services of an airport while also endangering the safety of the airport. The charge carries a maximum sentence of up to 20 years' imprisonment, and a fine of \$250,000.00.

Brems was arrested on August 8, 2006 on state charges after allegedly crashing his vehicle through a security gate of Southwest Florida International Airport and driving onto the airport runways at speeds more than 100 mph. According to court records while being pursued by airport security, Brems circled the runways several times and eventually crashed his vehicle into a retention pond. During this time, flights were scheduled to be departing and arriving Southwest Florida International Airport. This high-speed chase disrupted the functions of the airport.

During the pursuit, Brems allegedly drove immediately next to Southwest Airlines

Flight 251 during the plane's takeoff and as it was traveling at approximately 110 knots. These actions endangered the flight's passengers and crew. Also, while on the runways, Brems repeatedly drove head on towards USA3000 Flight 791 at speeds of approximately 100 mph and passed dangerously beneath the plane's wing near its engine and fuselage. Brems allegedly sped head on towards Flight 791 until about 20 yards before he would have collided with the aircraft, and turned and drove recklessly under the wing of the aircraft, endangering that flight's 129 passengers and crew. USA3000 Flight 791 was delayed approximately 25 minutes so that a runway inspection could occur.

This case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Lee County Port Authority. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David L. Haas of the Fort Myers Division of the United States Attorney's Office.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until, proven guilty.
